

CLAIMS

5 **What is claimed is:**

Sub
A2 1. A system for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the system comprising:

user indicator presentation means for presenting at least one user indicator within an 10 electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

status means for presenting status indicators with the user indicators, the status indicator indicating the status of the user associated with the user indicator; and

communication means for enabling a user to activate the user indicator to initiate 15 communications with the user associated with the user indicator.

15 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising preference presentation means for presenting a system user's preference for receiving communications.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising updating means for updating the status of the one or more system users.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising conference communication means for 20 enabling the one or more system users to establish conference communications with the one or more system users.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the conference communication means enable the one or more system users to share at least one application.

6. A method for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and 25 to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the system comprising the steps of:

presenting one or more user indicators within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

presenting a status of the one or more system users with a user indicator, the status 30 including the user's availability for communication; and

5 establishing a communication link with the one or more system users based on that user's indicated availability.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of enabling the one or more system users to establish one or more communication preferences.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of updating the status of the one 10 or more system users.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sharing at least one application with the one or more system users.

10. A system for enabling system users to view a status of one or more system users and to establish communications with the one or more system users using a user indicator, the 15 system comprising

— a user indicator presentation module for presenting at least one user indicator within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

20 a status determining module that determines the status of the one or more system users; and

25 a communication module that establishes a communication link with the one or more system users.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising a communication options preference presentation module that presents a system user's preference for receiving 25 communications.

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising a status updating module that updates the status of the one or more system users.

13. The system of claim 10, further comprising a conference communication module that 30 enables the one or more system users to establish conference communications with the one or more system users.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the conference communication module enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

5 15. A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for
enabling a system user to obtain a user status and establish a communication link using
the user status comprising:

A2 user indicator presenting processor readable code that presents at least one user
indicator within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least
10 one system user;

status providing processor readable code that provides the status of the one or more
system users; and

communication establishing processor readable code that establishes a
communication link with the one or more system users.

15 16. The medium of claim 15, further comprising communication preference presenting
processor readable code that presents a system user's preference for receiving
communications.

17. The medium of claim 16, further comprising communication prioritizing processor
readable code that enables the one or more system users to prioritize the preferences.

20 18. The medium of claim 15, further comprising status updating processor readable
program code that updates the status of the one or more system users.

19. The medium of claim 15, further comprising conference communication processor
readable code that enables the one or more system users to establish conference
communications with the one or more system users.

25 20. The medium of claim 15, wherein the conference communication processor readable
code enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

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